**Writing Assignment 1: Research Framework and Methodology**

From the syllabus: “Using Chapter One from *EIIW,* explain your theory of the concept of ‘literacy.’ What is literacy? How do you know a ‘literacy event’ when you see it? How will you go about looking for literacy in its ‘natural habitat’ or in context? Think of this essay as the framework you are creating for your study. (3-5 pages.)”

This writing assignment, your first on your way toward your final project, will be a chance for you to “work with ideas,” a phrase that often implies “working with *source texts assigned as part of the curriculum*.” That same implication holds here. What I’m hoping to see is that you have understood some of the key ideas found in your readings from **Chapters 1 and 2 [note the change from the syllabus]**, and that you can make use of these sources in part to build your argument. You will be expected to summarize, paraphrase or quote when appropriate (see website under “Composition”).

You have four (4) articles from which to choose: Szwed, Barton and Hamilton, Brandt, and Scribner. Be sure to make use of sources from at least two (2) of them.

There is, of course, other support from which you are encouraged to draw. You by now may have begun to think of the literacy you’ve experienced or seen represented as a result of your reading. In answering the question, “What is literacy?” (a matter of *definition*), you’ll need to find *facts*, in the form of concrete, detailed **examples**, and how and when writing gets “taken up” in action, resulting in a “literacy event.”

Remember that this will not be a “me” paper; that is, it will not be a “personal essay.” But as we discussed in class, you may feel free to use an example from your personal life.

Finally, use this reflection about fact and definition to think forward to how you’ll be looking for literacy in its “natural habitat.” Where will you be going to research literacy, learning how it really functions in people’s everyday lives? How do you propose to gather relevant data for this project?

AUDIENCE: Assume an audience not familiar with any of these authors or with your experiences. You must supply background information and be thorough in your explanations.

FORMAT: MLA Style. (There are YouTube videos and other resources, such as OWL Purdue, which will explain how to format according to MLA standards.)

Save this document as WA1YourLastName.docx, and send it to my email address ([barnes.english@gmail.com](mailto:barnes.english@gmail.com)) by **Sunday, February 13** at 12:00 noon.